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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:  
WITTENBRINK et al.

Serial No.: To be Assigned

Filed: July 2, 2003 claiming priority to  
application serial no. 09/412,898 filed on  
October 5, 1999

For: *Sort Middle, Screen Space, Graphics  
Geometry Compression Through  
Redundancy Elimination*

Group Art Unit: 2624

Examiner: Do, Anh Hong

Attorney Docket No. PDNO 10991644-2

Date: July 2, 2003

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY REMARKS

In the current continuation application, claims 1-4 are pending. Claims 1-4 were rejected in the above-referenced parent application. Applicant will sequentially address the issues raised by the Examiner in the parent case.

I. The 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,229,553 B1 issued to Duluk, Jr. et al. ("DULUK") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,408,605 issued to Deering ("DEERING"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

A. Overview

A simplified graphics pipeline generally includes at least two graphics processing stages before graphics are displayed on an image display. These graphics processing stages are: (1) geometry processing; and (2) rasterization.